

**State of Texas  
County of Bexar  
City of San Antonio**



**DRAFT  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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**Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call noting the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. A Briefing on the Brackenridge Park draft master plan. [María D. Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Sheryl Sculley stated that in March of 2016, Mayor Taylor and the City Council were presented with a Draft of the Brackenridge Park Master Plan in anticipation of a briefing to the Neighborhoods and Livability Council Committee and release of the Draft Report to the general public for comment. She noted that after the scheduled public meeting on the Draft Master Plan, Councilmember Treviño requested that staff hold more public engagement meetings and obtain additional feedback on the Master Plan. She stated that a series of events were held which allowed the city to collect more input from citizens.

Xavier Urrutia provided a brief history of Brackenridge Park and the surrounding area. He noted that the professional services of Rialto were engaged to identify master planning issues with the park. He reported that the following Master Plan issues were identified:

- Park was perceived as a collection of parts
- Diminished natural habitat/water quality
- Dominance of impervious cover
- Poor pedestrian connectivity
- Limited free public space
- Costly park maintenance activities

Mr. Urrutia noted that in response to said issues; the following Master Plan Goals were identified:

- Clarification of park perimeter
- Enlarge park
- Strengthen pedestrian flow
- Balance use portfolio
- Park community support

Mr. Urrutia stated that stakeholder meetings were held in June 2015 and a public workshop was held in July 2015. He noted that the Draft Master Plan was presented to the Neighborhoods and Livability Council Committee in March 2016. He noted that an intensive outreach effort was made via the Internet and meetings were videotaped and placed on You Tube and the Parks and Recreation Website. He stated that 363 people attended said meetings representing 59 zip codes. He noted that of the five Master Plan Strategies; only three were supported by the public. He stated that the following two Master Plan Strategies did not garner support from the public: 1) Reduce Parking in Lieu of Grand Lawn; and 2) Close Roads and People Mover. He noted that the following three Master Plan Strategies garnered support from the public: 1) Restore natural features and improve water quality; 2) Preserve and restore cultural and historic features; and 3) Increase park visibility and pedestrian access.

Mr. Urrutia stated that Councilmember Treviño had requested that events and additional public meetings be held. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Department hosted fun, free, event-based activities to bring the Proposed Master Plan Strategies to life and encourage community dialogue. He played a video summarizing the events held and the testimonies of citizens.

Mr. Urrutia reviewed the various events held and stated that there were 861 attendees at said events from 61 zip codes across the city. He noted that of the 431 adults who attended, 246 completed a survey. He stated that feedback demonstrated that attendees supported the three Master Plan Strategies. He noted that projects associated with the 2017-2022 Bond

Program were in line with the Master Plan. He stated that the Master Plan would be finalized and brought before the full City Council in late February 2017.

Mayor Taylor asked of the consensus on the parking issue. Mr. Urrutia stated that the public did not support removing parking or closing the roads within Brackenridge Park.

Councilmember Warrick asked of engaging citizens in a similar manner on other park projects. Mr. Urrutia stated that non-traditional ways of obtaining feedback could be utilized on citywide park projects. Councilmember Warrick expressed support for ensuring that funds for park meeting strategies were included in the cost of future citywide park projects.

Councilmember Treviño thanked staff for making the process fun and expressed support for the great effort.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how programming could be included as part of a project's budget. Mr. Urrutia replied that this could be explored during the Budget Process. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the marketing utilized to make people aware of activities in parks. Mr. Urrutia stated that media releases and social media were utilized.

Councilmember Medina asked of the amount included in the proposed 2017-2022 Bond Program for Brackenridge Park. Mrs. Sculley stated that a total of \$21.5 Million for Brackenridge Park was included in the proposed 2017-2022 Bond Program. Councilmember Medina asked how the experience in Sunken Gardens could be improved. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Master Plan recognized Sunken Gardens as an underutilized asset. He noted that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP) may be released to see if someone viable were interested in operating said facility.

Councilmember Krier asked if statistics were kept on how many people utilized Brackenridge Park that were not from the Downtown Area. Mr. Urrutia replied that said data was not collected; however, point in time data was collected and could be provided.

Councilmember Nirenberg expressed support for the process and congratulated everyone involved. Councilmember Viagran thanked everyone for keeping Brackenridge Park open to all.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

2. A Briefing on fiber deployment and related construction activities occurring in San Antonio. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director,

## Transportation &amp; Capital Improvements]

Sheryl Sculley stated that in November 2016, an update on the construction of High Speed Fiber and policy recommendations to enhance communications between contractors and residents were presented to the City Council. She noted that on November 9, 2016, the City Council passed an Ordinance amending the type of construction signage required at job sites and required each agency performing work in the right-of-way to wear a conspicuous identifier. She stated that the city was working with the various companies installing the fiber to help manage customer service and right-of-way related issues.

Mike Frisbie reviewed the following benefits of High Speed Fiber:

- Faster Internet connections capable of handling higher bandwidths
- Decreased downloading/uploading times
- Increased business and institutional opportunities
- Reduced pricing from increased competition

Mr. Frisbie stated that Google had announced San Antonio as a Potential Fiber City in 2014. He noted that in 2014, the City Council authorized Google and AT&T to lease city property for network huts. He stated that in 2015, Google and AT&T announced that San Antonio would receive Gigabit Fiber Service and AT&T began expanding its network. He noted that in 2016, Google began constructing its fiber network build out and additional companies began development of Fiber Deployment Plans. He reviewed the number of crews, permits, and the deployment dates for each fiber group. He noted that 1,000 miles of AT&T Fiber has been completed since June 2015 and 1,500 additional miles were planned for 2017. He stated that high speed fiber was currently available in select locations.

Mr. Frisbie explained the process for the use of boring machines and the installation of fiber. He stated that there were 4,000 miles of total network build out and 400 miles of backbone build out. He noted that the central ring was substantially complete, except for splicing and restoration. He stated that construction was currently on hold in order to survey the impacts of the fiber huts. He noted that two of the huts were substantially complete and provided a description of the huts and public art planned. He stated that alternate sites were being sought for eight of the 17 huts planned. He noted that Google had not met with the city regarding this because they must review their technology before moving forward. He stated that seven of the huts would remain in their locations as planned. He noted that Zayo was an Independent Communication Provider constructing a dark fiber backbone and dark fiber connections throughout the city. He stated that dark fiber was only the infrastructure and did not include lighting of the fiber. He reported that Zayo has built out 155 miles of dark fiber since May 2016 and was anticipated to complete 300 additional miles of dark

fiber in 2017. He noted that a small micro-trench demonstration was anticipated in mid-February. He mentioned that a Micro Trench Pilot Program would be conducted by Google in Council District 6 which was approved by the City Council in September 2016. He reviewed the micro trenching process and noted that all utility providers had seven days to mark their infrastructure prior to excavation. He stated that 25% of San Antonio Water System (SAWS) damages were related to fiber and the rest were due to other construction. He reviewed the following community outreach enhancements:

#### Construction notifications

- 30 day notification to City Council and affected Neighborhood Associations prior to construction
- 7 days prior-electronic message boards on impacted collector or arterial streets
- 3 days prior-door hangers to impacted residents and businesses

#### Signage

- Construction signage to include project type, utility, and contractor contact information

#### Identification

- Construction crew to wear Utility Owner Identifier visible to the public, i.e., vests, hard hats, etc.

Mr. Frisbie provided the following summary of High Speed Fiber:

- More companies providing gigabit service
- Overall increased construction across the city
- Enhanced city capabilities to manage deployment
- Many residences and businesses were already receiving benefits

Mr. Frisbie added that there was still quite a bit of due diligence to be performed on the project.

Mayor Taylor asked of feedback from Google regarding the relocation of some of the huts. Mr. Frisbie stated that Google was reviewing its technology before moving forward. Mayor Taylor asked if staff was vetting potential replacement sites. Mr. Frisbie replied that they were not able to identify replacement sites until Google completed its technology review. Mayor Taylor asked if staff was working with Neighborhood Associations regarding the huts already in place. Mr. Frisbie replied that they were.

Councilmember Lopez requested that discussion of how providers were going to provide some common methodology of a Network Management System be brought before the Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Council Committee. He spoke of the importance

of performance reliability and protection of the systems.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if the public could have a listing of the providers and a point of contact for each. Mr. Frisbie replied that said information could be found on the Transportation and Capital Improvements Website. Councilmember Saldaña spoke of the importance of accountability to the public.

Councilmember Gallagher expressed concern that door hangers were placed only 3 days prior to the projects and requested that this be accomplished further in advance to make residents more aware. He spoke of the importance of benefits gained by the project.

Councilmember Medina spoke of the high demand for High Speed Fiber and stressed the need for communication with residents. He spoke of coordination of micro trenching and the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) Schedule. Mr. Frisbie stated that staff was engaged with the IMP to coordinate projects with new construction of streets. Councilmember Medina spoke of the excessive use of construction paint and asked that this be addressed by providers.

Councilmember Viagran stressed the need for placement of the huts to be respectful to the community. She mentioned the perception that work was halted when construction of the huts was halted. Mr. Frisbie stated that construction of the seven huts whose locations were approved continued. He noted that conversations with Google on replacement sites for the eight huts would resume after Google reviews their technology. Councilmember Viagran noted the importance of creating a Citizens Advisory Committee as citizens wanted to be engaged. Mr. Frisbie stated that staff would work with the Council offices and neighborhood associations to enhance citizen engagement.

Councilmember Warrick asked of hut locations in his district. Mr. Frisbie replied that staff would meet with him to discuss same. Councilmember Warrick asked how residents would know if service was available to them. Mr. Frisbie replied that one could go to provider websites to find out if services were available. Councilmember Warrick asked if deployment plans were made in conjunction with the SA Tomorrow Plan. Mr. Frisbie replied that the companies focused on making service available to existing populations. Peter Zanoni added that deployment plans were not made available by the companies.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of taking advantage of existing planning by neighborhoods. He asked if micro trenching only occurred where a curb and gutter were present. Mr. Frisbie replied that micro trenching would occur next to a curb or gutter whether or not both were present. Councilmember Treviño stated that he would like to see the specifications for micro trenching.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the process for approval of a particular hut location. Mr. Frisbie stated that following Google's response staff would meet with the applicable Council District to find out if there were issues or tremendous opposition. He noted that due diligence on the proposed sites would be performed. Mr. Zaroni stated that Google would meet with staff in two to three weeks. Councilmember Nirenberg stated that two other companies had inquired about micro trenching. Mr. Frisbie stated that more micro trenching and a Pilot Micro Trenching Project was encouraged and would be available to any provider. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of a "Dig Once" Policy. Rod Sanchez stated that the city did not have one.

Councilmember Krier asked if fiber deployment would be a viable option in the future. Mr. Frisbie stated that providers have assured the city that fiber provides redundancy and a robust dependable system. He added that the companies were investing millions in infrastructure.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:10 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Deliberations regarding economic development negotiations and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.087 (economic development) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- B. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- C. Discuss legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Discuss legal issues related to the San Antonio Public Safety Radio System pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.076 (security devices and audits) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

**RECONVENED**

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

City Clerk Vacek read the caption for Item 3:

3. Public Hearing on the Draft Urban Renewal Plan to meet the statutory requirements as part of the proposed 2017 Neighborhood Improvements Bond Proposition [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Bridgett White, Director, Planning & Community Development]

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing on the Draft Urban Renewal Plan to meet the statutory requirements as part of the Proposed 2017 Neighborhood Improvements Bond Proposition.

Gerard Lobosco stated that he represented The Woods Condominium Association and spoke of the demolition of the Turtle Creek Country Club. He expressed concern for the development of multi-family housing at that location.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of pollution in streams and stated that the issue should be addressed.

Theresa Ybanez, President of the Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of Area Number 6 of the Neighborhood Improvements Bond. She asked the Bond Committee to consider the former Earl Campbell Building Property and requested that proceeds from the sale of properties be utilized to assist home owners with repair.

Bill McDonough requested a change in the verbiage in the Urban Renewal Plan. He stated that fear regarding eminent domain and the loss of residences and businesses have been expressed by citizens.

Calvin Parker, Executive Director of Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), stated that LISC supported sustainable housing. He expressed support for the Neighborhood Improvements Bond and the Urban Renewal Plan.

Melissa Cessac stated that she was affiliated with the Sisters of Divine Providence and was a member of Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) Metro Alliance in support



of the Urban Renewal Plan. She requested that \$3 Million in HOME Funds be reappropriated for owner occupied rehabilitation.

Ross Laughead spoke on behalf of Oakland Estates. He objected to inclusion of the Oak Hollow Mobile Home Park as an area in the Urban Renewal Plan. He stated that it conflicts with the Oakland Estates Neighborhood Plan and its covenants.

Cynthia Brehm spoke against the Bond Program and suggested that it be restructured. She stated that the city would be over extending itself with the Bond Program.

Bo Lim expressed concern that the city failed to notify the public regarding those in the targeted areas of the Neighborhood Improvements Bond. She stated that it was important for the city operations to be transparent to the community.

Kwok Lim expressed concern that the city could take over private property without his knowledge.

Eiginio Rodriguez expressed concern regarding areas designated as distressed and stated that those affected were not informed. He spoke of instances of destruction caused by aircraft at Kelly Air Force Base.

Raymond Zavala spoke against the proposed Bond Program noting that there were bigger problems than housing in the city.

There being no other citizens registered to speak, Mayor Taylor closed the Public Hearing.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Amber Garza expressed dissatisfaction with the Bond Process and requested that funding for Hemisfair Park be reduced.

Mark Perez spoke of chemicals in the SAWS Pipeline and expressed concern with the businesses operating throughout the city without the proper permits.

Raymond Zavala expressed concern that the City did not always meet Code Requirements. He requested that an Ordinance be created against panhandling.

Rhett Smith stated that he has run for Mayor of the City of San Antonio more than any other person and referenced the Code of Campaign Fair Practices. He expressed concern

that religious prejudice existed.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony highlighting National Night Out. He wrote that if another prison was built; it would be filled. He expressed concern with the restaurants operating without inspections. He wrote that there should be a Regional Water District in Bexar County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC  
CITY CLERK